



Making the Grade

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The red, white, and blue smokestacks on the SS *Cape Mohican*, SS *Cape Flattery*, and SS *Keystone State* were easily visible from the shores of Port Hadlock, Washington. Also easily visible was the prominent role they played on behalf of the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) in the Joint Logistics Over The Shore (JLOTS) exercises held in August this year. These exercises trained Army and Navy personnel to respond to a simulated disaster, and practice scenarios such as moving forces and supplies without the benefit of a port.

The three ships participating in JLOTS belong to the Ready Reserve Force (RRF), a sealift readiness program administered by MARAD. The RRF is an extremely cost effective and efficient program that ensures that ships are in a constant state of readiness in support of U.S. military operations worldwide.

"The best way to prepare to meet emergency sealift needs is by practicing in peacetime what you will be expected to perform in a crisis," said John Jamian, Deputy Maritime Administrator, "and the RRF participation in JLOTS has gone smoothly."

In fact, the SS *Cape Mohican* moored off Indian Island immediately offloaded construction materiel and equipment so military personnel could set up a base camp. In addition, the *Cape Mohican* discharged lighterage in support of the exercise.



The LASH ship SS *Cape Flattery* and the crane ship SS *Keystone State* soon discharged about 800 containers using ship-based cranes onto smaller vessels or barges for movement to shore. Navy tugs then pushed the barges to shore where naval magazine personnel accepted delivery and prepared them for onward movement.

"Without this multi-service exercise, we would be lacking the total transportation picture, and we cannot underestimate its importance. The synergetic effort of all parties made this operation a success," said Colonel Jack Wier, United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM).

Planning this JLOTS involved the services of Air Mobility Command, Military Sealift Command, MARAD, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and USTRANSCOM. The joint operations event helped ensure that the U.S. military is prepared to respond to any situation—whether in peace, humanitarian crisis, or war.

The exercise clearly demonstrated that the U.S. military can effectively and safely transport military forces and supplies to port facilities that are either nonexistent or too damaged or primitive for ships to offload their cargo at a pier.

About 1,000 active and reserve military personnel from multiple services and agencies participated in this event and MARAD's Ready Reserve Force with its civilian crew played an integral part in its success.

The SS Cape Flattery discharging containers using ship-based cranes onto lighterage (a small barge) for movement to shore.